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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BALTIMORE MAN CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT WITH
CHILD PORN AND IN STATE COURT WITH SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE**

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, and Patricia Jessamy, State's Attorney for Baltimore City, announced today that Robert South, age 20, of Baltimore, Maryland was arrested and indicted in federal court for the production, transmission and possession of child pornography images, and charged in state court for second degree sex offense and sexual child abuse. South has been detained in state custody since his arrest last month.

According to the federal indictment filed September, 2003 unsealed today, South sexually abused a child, took digital photographs of the abuse, and traded the images on the Internet. Additionally, investigators learned that South had been sexually abusing children for the last few years. South faces a maximum punishment of 30 years imprisonment and a minimum of 15 years imprisonment on the federal charges of producing child pornography. South is scheduled to appear in federal court on Tuesday, October 28, 2003 for an initial appearance on the federal charges.

The state indictment was filed August 21, 2003. South appeared in the Maryland Circuit Court for Baltimore City today for an arraignment where he pled not guilty to multiple charges including sexual offense in the second degree which carries a maximum 20 year prison sentence, and sexual child abuse which carries a maximum 15 year prison sentence.

The case was investigated by the Baltimore City Police Department and the FBI Innocent Images Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan P. Luna and Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer McAllister.